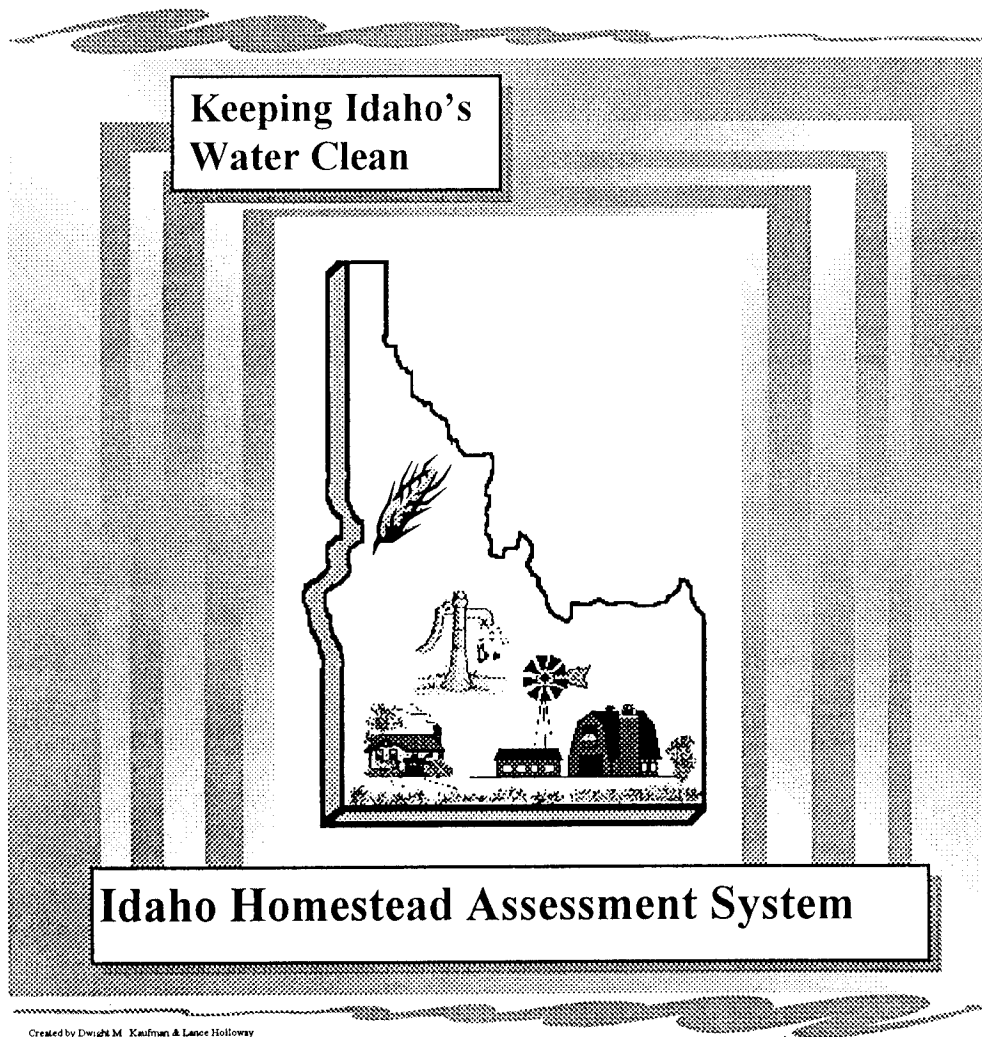


Idaho Home *A* Syst Project



*What can I do to protect my
drinking water?*



Are Your Homestead Practices Affecting Your Drinking Water Supplies?

Keeping Idaho's Water Clean

The Homestead Assessment System provides you with accurate first-hand information about how your homestead structures, such as your well or septic system, and activities such as pesticide storage or manure handling might affect your drinking water. Some homesite practices and structures pose high risks of contaminating ground water and your drinking water supplies. Others pose a low risk or virtually no risk of contamination at all. Your drinking water is least likely to be contaminated if you follow appropriate management procedures or dispose of wastes in a location that is off the homesite. Proper offsite disposal practices are, however, essential to avoid contaminating the water supplies and health of others.

Some of the information you obtain will be reassuring. Some of it may encourage you to consider modifying your structures or practices. Either way, you will have the information you need to do the best possible job of protecting the ground water you depend upon for your family's drinking water.

Participating in the Idaho Home*A*Syst project is entirely **voluntary**. The materials have been designed as a **confidential** service for Idaho residents. Users of the materials decide what to do with the results of their own assessments and keep them as their **private records**.

What is the Homestead Assessment System?

- The Homestead Assessment System (**Home*A*Syst**) is a series of fact/worksheets that will help you assess how effectively your homestead practices and structures protect your drinking water.
- The worksheets ask you about your homestead structures and activities. Your answers will help you see how your homestead practices might affect your well water.
- Corresponding material will provide information about practices and structures that can help reduce the risk of ground-water contamination. Each fact/worksheet also contains information on who to call for help and additional references on each topic.

Though field practices also have the potential to contaminate ground water, the **Home*A*Syst** series is not designed to address these concerns. **These worksheets deal with the potential effect of practices and structures on or near your homestead upon your drinking water supplies.**

Home*A*Syst Is a 3-Step Process

Step 1: Fact/worksheets help you assess the ground-water pollution potential of your homestead structures and activities, as well as providing additional information if needed. You select the appropriate fact/worksheets from the following topics:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1: Drinking Water Well Condition | 8: Animal Lot Management |
| 2: Pesticide Storage and Handling | 9: Silage Storage |
| 3: Fertilizer Storage and Handling | 10: Milking Center Wash Water Treatment |
| 4: Petroleum Product Storage | 11: Lawn and Garden Management |
| 5: Farm and Home Waste Management | 12: Pasture and Riparian Management |
| 6: Household Wastewater Treatment | 13: Storm Water Management |
| 7: Animal Manure Storage | |

Step 2: A separate site evaluation (**Worksheet A**) helps you assess how soil and geologic features affect the ground-water pollution potential on your homestead.

Step 3: An overall evaluation (**Worksheet B**) combines the results of steps 1 and 2, allowing you to:

- Inventory all potential sources of contamination.
- Compare potential contamination sources to see where improvements are needed most.
- Determine where to spend your time and money most effectively to protect the ground water that provides your drinking water.

You may need help getting information about site characteristics on your homestead. Worksheet A will provide suggestions on where to obtain information on the soils and geology of your homestead. Otherwise, you should be able to complete the worksheets yourself. Plan on spending about 15 to 30 minutes to complete each worksheet you select. Worksheets A and B will take additional time, as will reading the management information provided with each fact/worksheet.

To Order

Contact the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, P.O. Box 2637, 802 W. Bannock, Hoff Building, Suite 1006, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 338-5900,

or



The Homestead Assessment System is a cooperative project developed, coordinated, and supported by the following agencies and organizations:

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD)
Idaho Department of Agriculture (IDA)
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare-Division of
Environmental Quality (IDHW-DEQ)
Idaho Department of Water Resource (IDWR)
Idaho Public Health Districts
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC)
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI)
University of Idaho-Cooperative Extension System (CES)
USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA)
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
USDA-Rural Economic and Community Development
(RECD)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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